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Everything for Summer Comfort

Much Neglected Subject Good Clear English

Address of Chairman Ely of Phoenix School Board at
Roosevelt School Commencement

The address at the graduating exercises of the Roosevelt school on the South Side last Wednesday night was delivered by Chairman Sims Ely of the Phoenix school board. It was an instructive and scholarly address in which special stress was laid upon the importance of that neglected study—English.

Mr. Ely said: It has always seemed to me that the beginning of a school year, and not its close, is the more acceptable time for children to hear a serious talk about their work in school and the purpose for which they go to school. When children are celebrating their arrival at the end of a school term, and especially such a happy occasion as the end of study in the grammar school, they are not in a mood to give much attention to what may be said to them in thoughtful consideration of the job of getting an education. And I am not here this evening to say anything to make you less happy or to give you any stilted talk about things of which you

may believe you have already heard enough. But I was glad to accept the invitation of your superintendent to join you in this celebration—glad because I have a liking for all boys and girls and am always ready with excuses for their shortcomings; and because I have a warm regard for their welfare and am happy to know of their success, and because I have always held a deep interest in the public schools.

Doubtless my solicitude for the welfare of school children and my anxious desire that they shall have the best of opportunities to acquire adequate education have been accentuated by memory of the obstacles which I myself had to encounter in my school days. The facilities offered me were those of the frontier country school, conducted by teachers of limited training and education, and when it became necessary to leave school and turn to other things, I was fifteen and had not completely covered the studies which are now included in your seventh grade. And nothing

serves better to emphasize to me the difference between the conditions which prevailed in the west only a few years ago, and the advancement which Arizona has made on educational lines, than to consider the contrast between the prairie schools of Kansas, say, of twenty-five years ago and such a splendid school as this Roosevelt school of today. Truly, you children are to be congratulated. And if I am able to say anything this evening to encourage you to pursue your studies, both during your school days and afterward, the time you are allotting to me will be profitable for all of us. You are not yet old enough, perhaps, to appreciate very fully why all this drudgery of study is and has been necessary. But you are old enough to understand some of the duties of life. One of these obligations is to so fit ourselves in knowledge and training that we may do our share of good in the world. It is a duty of each of us to become a useful member of society, thus helping our fellows to success and happiness and to be successful ourselves, and thereby avoid being a drag or a burden. As you grow older you will better understand how it is and why it is that the unselfish person is the only really happy person and that in equipping ourselves to be useful and to make others happy we have hit upon the only sure way to arrive at happiness for ourselves. And unless we have at least a considerable education we shall fall far short of that measure of usefulness and happiness which we should attain.

I don't know how many of those graduating from this school now will go to the high school. It is to be hoped that all can go. But to those of you who may not be able to go ahead with your studies in the high school, I wish to say that the door to further learning is not closed. It has only been opened for you. One of the purposes in sending you to school has been to create and stimulate in you the desire for study. Another purpose has been to enable you to acquire mental discipline and to teach you to think. And if these purposes have been measurably accomplished, you will steadily proceed with your education throughout your life.

The course of study which has been provided for you is designed to enable you to lay a solid foundation for real education. No doubt you have found in one or more of your studies a dreary grind; for it is not easy to take an interest in every book of the course. You have been saying to each other that you are glad you are through with "that horrid old grammar," or "that dog-bitten old arithmetic," or "that stupid history," or "that dull geography." But later on you will hold in the deepest regard those of your teachers who have compelled you to absorb what you could from these books; for every day of your life, as you grow older, you will find that you have a greater use for knowledge of these elementary subjects.

And to those who graduate now, as well as to the children who have yet to complete their studies in this school, let me say that highly im-

NEW POULTRY FIRM BUYS OLD BUSINESS

J. Goldberg, who has for several years conducted a live and dressed poultry business at 117 East Jefferson street has sold his business to C. P. Goodjohn and Frank Dykes. The new firm will conduct business under the name of Goodjohn and Dykes.

Mr. Goodjohn has for a number of years been connected with one of the largest poultry houses in Easton, Iowa, and prior to that was the proprietor of a business in Delmos, Iowa. Dykes, is assistant state superintendent of education, and has a host of friends. He will not leave his office, being a silent partner in the business, which will be under the active management of Goodjohn.

Important as are the other studies of the course, the study of our language, in which spelling and grammar and the dictionary, and study of the best examples in English are the essentials is the most necessary of all. For, no matter how proficient one may be in other branches of learning, he is at a bad disadvantage if he be deficient in knowledge of his own language. Knowledge of language—to know the meaning of words and to know how to arrange them so as to express readily with clearness and accuracy the fact or idea which you wish to convey—is possibly the most useful of all accomplishments, since success in any endeavor is so largely dependent upon your ability to express your meaning.

Possibly the thought never occurred to you that the gift which chiefly distinguishes us from the other animals of creation is the gift of speech. Of course your teachers have told you that the human race at a dim age in the past—millions of years ago—was on pretty much the same level as the other animals. Somebody has said that man began his evolution and departure from the level of the brutes when he developed a brain; but rather it should have been said that the real evolution began when man developed his gift of language—for mark you, thought is developed by language, spoken and written, and the brain and the mind are developed by thought. To be sure, the brutes—some of them at least—have a language which serves to make known their emotions to others of the same species. But who knows what brain a dog might develop, if he could only talk?

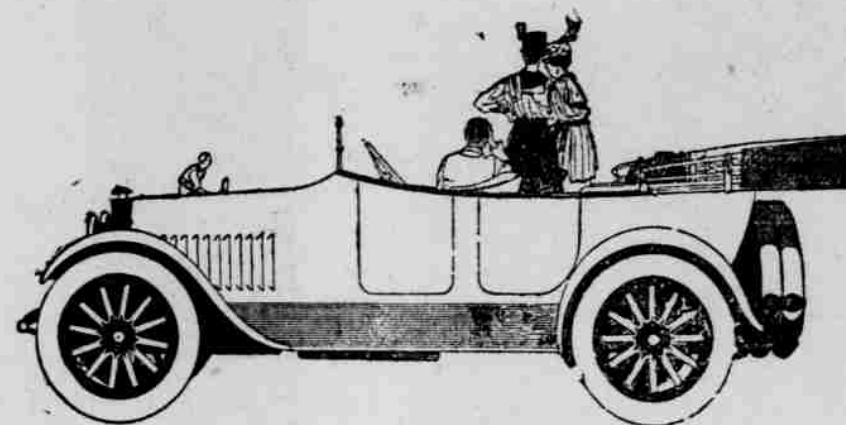
I would not have you infer that the chattering, talkative person is necessarily a thinker. But certainly, orderly thought is promoted and cultivated by a knowledge of words, for we have to think in terms of words. This fact was brought home to me, once, by a remark of an educated Mexican who, giving me some lessons in Spanish, "You will not find yourself speaking fluently in Spanish," he said, "until you force yourself to think in that language."

And it doubtless never occurred to you that a vast proportion of the troubles and vexations which arise between people come from misunderstandings of what has been said or written. How many of your own petty quarrels have brought out the statements "I didn't say that," "You did! You said so and so!" "Well, anyhow that is not what I meant!" Many lawsuits grow out of different opinions as to the meaning of contracts—instruments drawn by careful lawyers. But with all their care, these instruments did not set forth beyond dispute the intentions of the contracting parties. Indeed, lack of facility in writing clear English is a weakness of many good lawyers and not a few judges. The opinions rendered by courts are often open to more than one construction as to their meaning, because the judges who write these opinions do not express themselves with clearness and precision. The same fault is found in many text books. For instance, I had occasion not long ago to help my little boy with some examples in arithmetic, and I was surprised to find that some of the problems were stated in language so obscure that it was not easy to make sure of the meaning of the author until after a second or third reading. It is unfortunate, in fact, that many of the books used in the schools are so full of mistakes in the use of language that it is one of the most difficult things for a child to learn how to write them in clear and effective English and would, if written them, you would find much more pleasure in study, and you would learn faster. This is so because the most commonplace fact can be stated in a fascinating way, if we only know the way.

There died in France last year a very old man named Fabre. He was a peasant, and until within a few years of his death was poor and unknown. But he had diligently studied the language of his country and learned how to write it in a simple style which was positively captivating. And after he had reached an age at which most men deem themselves useless, he began to write books. He wrote books about such familiar insects as the bee, the ant, the spider, the wasp, and the fly, of which he had made an intimate study. The things he knew about these insects, he told in such a charming way that he rapidly became famous in all countries. His books were translated into many languages, and to his amazement he found himself, at eighty, one of the notable and honored men of the earth. Americans, Englishmen and Frenchmen journeyed to his village to honor him in his humble cottage and to thank him for the pleasure he had given them. The government of France although encrossed with the war, conferred upon him its high honor. This was not because he had revealed so much that was new about insects, but because he had stated facts about insects in language which charmed and arrested the attention of the world.

By study of our language, and learning how to use it, and by learning to think, and by close observation of the life around you, some of you

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They're seeking ability. And that is not always measured in stature, weight and reach.

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They make her perform.

They make her hit the trail, they roll her up the steepest hill. They let her out on the straightaway, and they make her accelerate at slow speeds.

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MAURICE O. O'NEILL

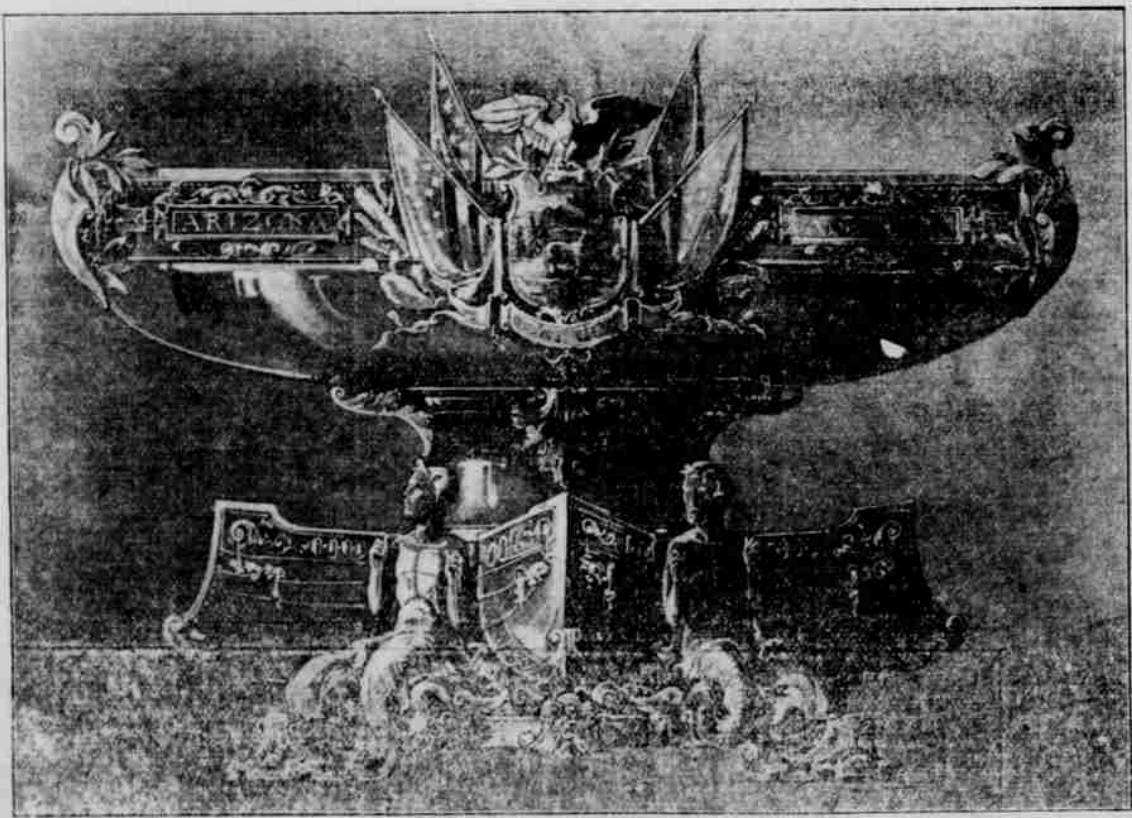
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THE MASSIVE CENTER-PIECE

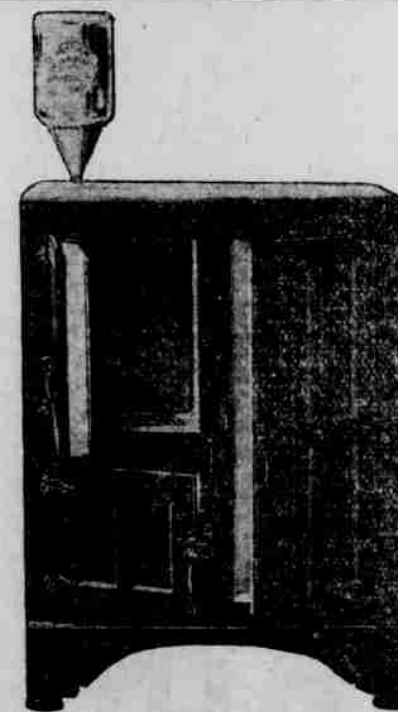
This photograph represents the designer's drawing of the center-piece for the silver service that the state of Arizona will buy by popular subscription for the soon-to-be-commissioned battleship "Arizona." The center-piece will be of solid silver.



THE HUGE PUNCH BOWL

The punch bowl for the service will consist of burnished native copper, beautifully decorated with inlaid silver. The reproduction of the Roosevelt dam, seen on the face of the bowl, is to be made by means of a new etching process. At the right can be seen the die, and beneath, two goblets. The saguaro is used as one of the decorative designs. The service will be manufactured by the Reid-Barton company of New York, and will be exhibited about the state beginning about July 4.

may become able to express your own thoughts like another Fabre. But for the profitable use of good English facts interest in your school books. Fabre, you may say, was a rare genius. In the every day affairs of life. Each and when I ask you to learn something, and that is the truth. But genuine facts of you will have occasion, by and their about our language on a day, has been defined as the ability to write letters on business. The I am inviting you to a study which will refer you in pleasure and in school himself to take minute care to be exceptionally good business letters substantial things. And no prudent be thorough in what he does. Well more easily command an important person will dare set a limit on what you may achieve, if you only will tent ourselves with the possession of. So, you see, when I advise you to yourself to achieve.



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